GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:431
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2001
ILLEGAL TRADE OF DRUGS
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey was conducted by the Government to identify the routes and the place of origin for carrying out illegal trade of drugs;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the estimated annual illegal drugs trade being carried out by these drug peddlars through these routes; and

(d) the reasons for failure to check their activities and the steps contemplated by the Government to strengthen the machinery to curb their activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a)&(b): Sir, Gathering of intelligence and information on drug trafficking is a continuous activity. India`s proximity to the major opium producing regions - the South- West Asian region near the western borders and the North-Eastern region near the Eastern borders makes India prone to drug trafficking. The existing drug trafficking trends indicate that the Indo-Pak borderis the most sensitive area for drug trafficking. However, the Indo-Myanmar border, the Indo-Nepalborder and the Indo-Sri-Lanka border are also identifiedas sensitive regions.

(c): Since drug trafficking is a clandestine activity, it is not possible to estimate the annual drugs trade being carried out by the drug peddlers through these routes. However, during the year 2000 the following drugs were seized in the country :-

Sr.No.	Name of the Drug	Qty. in Kgs.
1.	Opium	2524
2.	Morphine	37
3.	Heroin	1198
4.	Ganja	94682
5.	Hashish	4923
6.	Cocaine	0.083
7	Methaqualone	1095

(d): There is no failure on the part of the Governmentto check drug trafficking activities in the country. The significant steps taken by the Government to curb the illegal trade of drugs include constant vigil, stepping up of enforcement efforts, making sale of narcotic drugs a criminal offence under the NDPS Actpunishable with imprisonment of up to 20 years, notifying sensitive precursor chemicals as `controlled substances` under the NDPS Act, gearing up ofintelligence machinery, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict drugs on the border, holding of periodic cross border meetings between representatives of Indian and Pakistani narcotic agencies, holding of quarterly coordination meeting attended by all enforcement agencies involved in drug law enforcement at the highest level and stringent action under NDPS Act against persons arrested for drug trafficking.